

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 1348

FOR SSM KONTOS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, EG, IS
SUBJECT: UNEF

REF: STATE 156339

1. SUMMARY. BRIEFING GIVEN TO AUSTRALIAN, FINNISH, AND SWEDISH AMBASSADORS FOLLOWED GENERAL OUTLINE BELOW. IT INCLUDED SOME CRITIQUE UNEF OPERATIONS BUT WITHIN CONTEXT EMPHASIS ON UN'S MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SINAI PEACEKEEPING, DIFFICULTIES DOING JOB, AND NEED FOR MUTUAL UNEF-SFM SUPPORT. BELIEVE THERE ARE WEAKNESSES AND PROBLEMS WHICH NEED DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION. RECOGNIZE FULLY DESIRABILITY PRESENT SUCH THOUGHTS CONSTRUCTIVELY.

2. BRIEFING PATTERN. MY BRIEFINGS CONTAIN FOLLOWING POINTS, VARIED IN DETAIL AND COMMENTARY ACCORDING TO AUDIENCE. THIS ONE WAS INFORMAL WITHOUT NOTE TAKERS OR WISEMAN TV CREW. AMBASSADORS ASKED MANY QUESTIONS, AS MUCH ON UN AS ON SFM. SOME OF LIMITATIONS ON UNEF INSPECTION OF LFZ WERE DESCRIBED AND PERSONAL OPINION GIVEN THAT PEACEKEEPING FUNCTION HAS TO BE FIRMLY AND AT TIMES ASSERTIVELY EXERCISED TO BE EFFECTIVE. NO INDIVIDUALS OR UNITS MENTIONED. AMBASSADORS WERE CONSIDERED INVOLVED ASSOCIATES WITH WHOM REASONABLE DEGREE OPENNESS POSSIBLE.

3. SINAI AGREEMENT. BUFFER ZONE AND LIMITED FORCE ZONES CONSTITUTE
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SOPHISTICATED DYNAMIC BOTH INSULATING PARTIES FROM EACH OTHER AND PROVIDING PHASED STEP DOWN OF MILITARY PRESENCE. SYSTEM DESIGNED TO ALLOW BOTH PARTIES OBSERVE DIRECTLY ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER RATHER THAN RELY WHOLLY ON OUTSIDE MONITORS. THIS ARRANGEMENT FUNDAMENTAL AND SOUND GIVEN NATIONAL SECURITY STAKES AND DEGREE SUSPICION GENERATED OVER LAST 40 YEARS. MEANS OF DIRECT OBSERVATION INCLUDE AIR, GROUND AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. PROVISIONS OF

AGREEMENT ON RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE STATIONS THEN DESCRIBED.

4. SFM AND UN ROLES. UN HAS THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE PARTIES RESPECT OF AGREEMENT AND FOR PEACEKEEPING FUNCTIONS. SFM HAS LIMITED RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN OVERALL UN ADMINISTERED SYSTEM. THESE CONSIST OF MONITORING MOVEMENT IN OR TOWARD PASSES AND VERIFYING OPERATION OF SURVEILLANCE STATIONS. THESE FUNCTIONS EXERCISED WITHIN EARLY WARNING ZONE, A STRATEGIC BUT SMALL UIRT OF SINAI II AREA. DESCRIPTION THEN GIVEN OF UNEF AND UNTSO CONTROL OF ACCESS TO BZ, PATROLS, CHECKPOINTS AND INSPECTION OF LFZ FOLLOWED BY DESCRIPTION OF SFM ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS. SYSTEM INTERLOCKING, REQUIRES CLOSEST UN-US (SFM) COOPERATION.

5. SFM ORGANIZATION. SFM CREATED TO IMPLEMENT TERMS OF SINAI II AGREEMENT, NOT US DIPLOMATIC POST. ORGANIZED UNDER NSC WITH OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT. ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS, SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC GUIDELINES AND REVIEW. WHOLLY CIVILIAN IN OPERATION; 23 USG AND 140 CONTRACT. SUBSTANCE OF WORK SHARED BY BOTH: USG RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT AND VERIFICATION OF SURVEILLANCE STATIONS; CONTRACTOR FOR SUPPORT OPERATIONS AND WATCH STATIONS. WAS SOMEWHAT OF A BET ON COMBINATION DIPLOMATIC AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE STAFFING BUT IS SUCEEDING.

6. SFM OPERATIONS. OPERATIONS BASED ON COMBINATION PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY. PEOPLE ARE NEEDED FOR VALUE THEIR PRESENCE, INVESTIGATION

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AND INTERPRETATION. VARIED SENSOR TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES 24 HOUR COVERAGE UNDER VARIETY CONDITIONS AND ALLOWS REDUCED MONITOR STAFF. PARTICULAR ROLE ASSIGNED SFM UNDER SINAI II PERMITS THIS IN CONTRAST OTHER PEACEKEEPING FUNCTIONS AS PATROLING AND CHECKPOINTS WHICH REQUIRE PEOPLE MORE THAN TECHNOLOGY. INFORMATION OR ALERTS PROVIDED BY SENSORS NEEDS BE SUPPLEMENTED BY INVESTIGATION AND EVALUATION. DETAILS GIVEN ON WATCH STATIONS, SENSOR SYSTEM, SURVEILLANCE STATION VERIFICATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS (WITH EMPHASIS ON DIRECT NOTIFICATION TO PARTIES AND RAPIDITY).

7. PROBLEMS AND EVALUATION. EXECUTION OF ASSIGNED MONITORING FUNCTIONS ARE DIFFICULT. THERE ARE CONSIDERABLE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS JUST IN EXISTING, TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION. ALSO STAFF PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINING MORALE AND ALERTNESS UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. RELATION S

WITH PARTIES CAN BE DIFFICULT DUE DELIBERATE TESTING OF SYSTEM, DIFFERING ROLES, AND UNEXPECTED EVENTS. ROLE OF SFM AND UN SOMEWHAT ANALAGOUS TO REFEREE: NEED MAKE ACCURATE, QUICK, FIRM CALLS; COUNTER ENCROACHMENT BY PLAYERS (PARTIES); AND PROMOTE RESPECT FOR AGREED GUIDELINES. COMMENTED TO AMBASSADORS THAT THIS ROLE EASIER FOR SFM AS EACH PARTY HAS CLOSE TIES WITH US, SFM HAS INDEFINITE MANDATE WHILE UNEF AND UNDOF MUST BE RENEWED BY PARTIES,

AND SFM AREA RESPONSIBILITY MUCH MORE LIMITED THAN UN'S.

8. MY COMMENTS. A. BASIC PEACEKEEPING RULES, BEST APPROACHES, TRADE-OFFS, AND MECHANICS OF OPERATIONS ARE WIDELY DISCUSSED WITHIN UN ORGANIZATIONS AND BETWEEN UN AND SFM REPRESENTATIVES. BOTH PARTIES ARE VERY WELL INFORMED AS WELL. MUCH OF ABOVE REVIEWED WITH UN TASK FORCE MEMBERS AT JERUSALEM AND SFM. AMBASSADORS PERHAPS NOT AS FULLY COGNIZANT PROBLEMS.

B. BRIEFINGS CONTAIN MENTION UN ROLE AND ACTIVITIES BECAUSE: SINAI AGREEMENT SETS UP RELATED UN - US (SFM) RESPONSIBILITIES; OPERATIONS OF SFM AND UN ARE BOTH IN US INTEREST; AND CONCENTRATION ON SFM ALONE MIGHT SUGGEST DISREGARD OR SUPPLANTING OF UN ROLE.

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C. WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON VERSION REACHING YOU. WILL ALSO ASK HUNT IF HE OR THORNE PICKED UP COMMENTS IN CAIRO.
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